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On Resisting Evil

by Murray N. Rothbard

How can anyone, finding himself surrounded by a rising tide of evil, fail to do his utmost to fight against it? In our century, we have been inundated by a flood of evil, in the form of collectivism, socialism, egalitarianism, and nihilism. It has always been crystal clear to me that we have a compelling moral obligation, for the sake of ourselves, our loved ones, our posterity, our friends, our neighbors, and our country, to do battle against that evil.

How can anyone, finding himself surrounded by a rising tide of evil, fail to fight against it?

It has therefore always been a mystery to me how people who have seen and identified this evil and have therefore entered the lists against it, either gradually or suddenly abandon that fight. How can one see the truth, understand one's compelling duty, and then, simply give up and even go on to betray the cause and its comrades? And yet, in the two movements and their variations that I have been associated with, libertarian and conservative, this happens all the time.

Conservatism and libertarianism, after all, are "radical" movements, that is, they are radically and strongly opposed to existing trends of statism and immorality. How, then, can someone who has joined such a movement, as an ideologue or activist or financial supporter, simply give up the fight? Recently, I asked a perceptive friend of mine how so-and-so could abandon the fight? He answered that "he's the sort of person who wants a quiet life, who wants to sit in front of the TV, and who doesn't want to hear about any trouble." But in that case, I said in anguish, "why do these people become 'radicals' in the first

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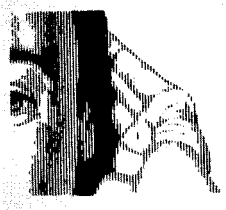

THE EAR

by Sarah Barton

Fostergate is THE hot topic in Washington and even abroad. The Clintonians have spread two very different stories. For the boobs: that poor Foster was "killed by the *Wall Street Journal*," that is, driven to suicide by the *Journal's* and other attacks on Foster's role in Travelgate and other White House boo-boos. Among the leaders of this line: Clintonian flacks Michael Kinsley and Sidney Blumenthal. Anyone who believes this of a tough and experienced lawyer like Foster deserves to be sentenced to read

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nothing but Clinton's speeches for the next three years.

The second, or fallback, Clintonian line, for the sophisticates: *also* pushed by the same Sidney Blumenthal in the early August *New Yorker*, that Foster was a closet gay, and that Fort Marcy Park, where Foster was killed, was well-known for gay liaisons. The cause of death can now go either way: either Foster, driven by remorse or whatever from a successful or rejected gay liaison, committed suicide, or that the gay stranger bumped off Foster. Shooting down this thesis is the intrepid leftist and gay critic of the Clintonians, Doug Ireland (*Village Voice*, August 10), who checked with Virginia attorney James Lowe, who specializes in gay park sex defenses. Lowe reports that he never heard of gay sex at Fort Marcy; instead, the well known gay liaison park in the Washington-Virginia area is 20 miles away at Turkey Run.

A hotter, and more plausible, rumor spread all over Washington shortly after Foster's death, and surfaced in the July 25 issue of the highly respected (but far from Washington) London *Sunday Times*: that Foster, described everywhere as Hillary's closest friend, was actually having a "passionate affair" with Hillary, and that this affair "had been discovered." Once again, the reliable Blumenthal is there to give a Clintonian spin: that rumors claim that the *Washington Times* had found about the affair and was about to leak it. Blumenthal also admits the *Times*'s denial of the story. At any rate, *Washington Times* or not, the theory is that Foster, upon the affair being discovered, was "overcome with remorse," and committed suicide.

But it seems far more plausible to forget about this "remorse" stuff and concentrate on the London *Sunday Times*'s phrase: "had been discovered." For the question that immediately leaps to mind is: discovered *by whom*? And did the aforesaid "whom" take steps to bump Foster off so as to protect Hillary's reputation and power in America?

"Why don't they just call themselves 'market leftists'?"

Who did it? Who discovered the alleged affair? And who therefore might have bumped Foster off, or had him bumped off? Boy do we need an Independent Investigation, armed with subpoena power, willing to go after *everyone*, regardless how high his or her office!

Hey, maybe Clinton will be impeached after all!

* * * * *

Quip from a friend: "*RRR* is on the far edge of American politics. Any group more extreme than *RRR* is holed up in a building in some remote area, surrounded by 400 heavily armed agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms."

* * * * *

Wonder whatever happened to that sleazy guru of New Age left-libertarianism, Werner Erhard (nee Rosenberg), creator of EST? Well, the latest twists of the Newest Age are catching up with Werner.

Werner's daughter, Deborah Pimental, went on "60 Minutes" to denounce her father for "sexually abusing" her. Another daughter, Deborah's half-sister Celeste Erhard, told *San Jose Mercury News* reporter John Hubner, for an article he wrote in 1990, that Werner had beaten her mother, Ellen, in 1977. Now, Celeste is suing the newspaper because she claims that Hubner "tricked" her into talking by promising they'd write a book together and make a lot of money. But Deborah plans to testify at the trial on the *San Jose Mercury News* side, and against her half-sibling.

If you really want more news about the toast of the Bad Old Days, Steve Pressman's book on Werner, *Outrageous Betrayal*, is scheduled for fall publication.

Werner himself? He's holed up in Mexico, "in self-imposed exile.".

I'll bet.

* * * * *

Says a friend of mine: "Why don't they just call themselves 'market leftists'?" ■

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place? Why do they proudly call themselves 'conservatives' or 'libertarians'?'' Unfortunately, no answer was forthcoming.

Sometimes, people give up the fight because, they say, the cause is hopeless, We've lost, they say. Defeat is inevitable. The great economist Joseph Schumpeter wrote in 1942 that socialism is inevitable, that capitalism is doomed not by its failures but by its very successes, which had given rise to a group of envious and malevolent intellectuals who would subvert and destroy capitalism from within. His critics charged Schumpeter with counselling defeatism to the defenders of capitalism. Schumpeter replied that if someone points out that a rowboat is inevitably sinking, is that the same thing as saying: don't do the best you can to bail out the boat?

In the same vein, assume for a minute that the fight against the statist evil is a lost cause, why should that imply abandoning the battle? In the first place, as gloomy as things may look, the inevitable may be postponed a bit. Why isn't that worthwhile? Isn't it better to lose in thirty years than to lose now? Secondly, at the very worst, it's great fun to tweak and annoy and upset the enemy, to get back at the monster. This in itself is worthwhile. One shouldn't think of the process of fighting the enemy as dour gloom and misery. On the contrary, it is highly inspiring and invigorating to take up arms against a sea of troubles instead of meeting them in supine surrender, and by opposing, perhaps to end them, and if not at least to give it a good try, to get in one's licks.

And finally, what the heck, if you fight the enemy, you might win! Think of the brave fighters against communism in Poland and the Soviet Union who never gave up, who fought on against seemingly impossible odds, and then, bingo, one day Communism collapsed. Certainly the chances of winning are a lot greater if you put up a fight than if you simply give up.

In the conservative and libertarian movements there have been two major forms of surrender, of abandonment of the cause. The most common and most glaringly obvious form is one we are all too familiar with: the sellout. The young libertarian or conservative arrives in Washington, at some think-tank or in Congress or as an administrative aide, ready and eager to do battle, to roll back the State in service to his cherished radical cause. And then something happens: sometimes gradually, sometimes with startling suddenness. You go to some cocktail parties, you find that the Enemy seems very pleasant, you start getting enmeshed in Beltway marginalia, and pretty soon you are placing the highest importance on some trivial committee vote, or on some piddling little tax cut or amendment, and eventually you are willing to abandon the battle altogether for a cushy contract, or a plush government job. And as this sellout process continues, you find that your major source of irritation is not the statist enemy, but the troublemakers out in the field who are always yapping about principle and even attacking *you* for selling out the cause. And pretty soon you and The Enemy have an indistinguishable face.

We are all too familiar with this sellout route and it is easy and proper to become indignant at this moral treason, treason to a cause that is just, to the battle against evil, and to your own once cherished comrades. But there is another form of abandonment that is not as evident and is more insidious—and I don't mean simply loss of energy or interest. In this form, which has been common in the libertarian movement but is also prevalent in sectors of conservatism, the militant decides that the cause is hopeless, and gives up by deciding to abandon the corrupt and rotten world, and retreat in some way to a pure and noble community of one's own. To Randians, it's ''Galt's Gulch,'' from Rand's novel, *Atlas Shrugged*. Other libertarians keep seeking to form some underground community, to ''capture'' a small town in the West, to go ''underground'' in the forest, or even to build a new libertarian country on an island, in the hills, or whatever. Conservatives have their own forms of retreatism. In each case, the call arises to abandon the wicked world, and to form some tiny alternative community in some backwoods retreat. Long ago, I labelled this view ''retreatism.'' You could call this strategy ''neo-Amish,'' except that the Amish are productive farmers, and these groups, I'm afraid, never make it up to that stage.

The rationale for retreatism always comes couched in High Moral as well as pseudo-psychological terms. These ''purists,''

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for example, claim that *they*, in contrast to us benighted fighters, are "living liberty," that they are emphasizing "the positive" instead of focusing on the "negative," that they are "living liberty" and living a "pure libertarian life," whereas we grubby souls are still living in the corrupt and contaminated real world. For years, I have been replying to these sets of retreatists that the real world, after all, is good; that we libertarians may be anti-State, but that we are emphatically *not* anti-society or opposed to the real world, however contaminated it might be. We propose to continue to fight to save the values and the principles and the people we hold dear, even though the battlefield may get muddy. Also, I would cite the great libertarian Randolph Bourne, who proclaimed that we are American patriots, not in the sense of patriotic adherents to the State but to the country, the nation, to our glorious traditions and culture that are under dire attack.

We are the nation that is going to win, that is going to take America back, no matter how long it takes.

Our stance should be, in the famous words of Dos Passos, even though he said them as a Marxist, "all right, we are two nations." "America" as it exists today is two nations; one is *their* nation, the nation of the corrupt enemy, of their Washington, D.C., their brainwashing public school system, their bureaucracies, their media, and the other is *our*, much larger, nation, the majority, the far nobler nation that represents the older and the truer America. We are the nation that is going to win, that is going to take America back, no matter how long it takes. It is indeed a grave sin to abandon that nation and that America short of victory.

But are we then emphasizing "the negative"? In a sense, yes, but what else are we to stress when our values, our principles, our very being are under attack from a relentless foe? But we have to realize, first, that in the very course of accentuating the negative we are also emphasizing the positive. Why do we fight against, yes even hate, the evil? Only because we love the good, and our stress on the "negative" is only the other side of the coin, the logical consequence, of our devotion to the good, to the positive values and principles that we cherish. There is no reason why we can't stress and spread our positive values at the same time that we battle against their enemies. The two actually go hand in hand.

Among conservatives and some libertarians, these retreats sometimes took the form of holing up in the woods or in a cave, huddling amidst a year's supply of canned peaches and guns and ammo, waiting resolutely to guard the peaches and the cave from the nuclear explosion or from the Communist army. They never came; and even the cans of peaches must be deteriorating by now. The retreat was futile. But now, in 1993, the opposite danger is looming: namely, retreatist groups face the awful menace of being burned out and massacred by the intrepid forces of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, in their endless quest for shotguns one millimeter shorter than some regulation decrees, or for possible child abuse. Retreatism is beginning to loom as a quick road to disaster.

Of course, in the last analysis, none of these retreats, generally announced with great fanfare as the way to purity if not victory, have amounted to a hill of beans; they are simply a rationale, a half-way house, to total abandonment of the cause, and to disappearance from the stage of history. The fascinating and crucial point to note is that both of these routes—sellout and retreatism—even though seemingly diametrically opposite, end up inexorably at the same place. The sellout abandons the cause and betrays his comrades, for money or status or power; the retreatist, properly loathing the sellouts, concludes that the real world is impure and retreats out of it; *in both cases*, whether in the name of "pragmatism" or in the name of "purity," the cause, the fight against evil in the real world, is abandoned. Clearly, there is a vast moral

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difference in the two courses of action. The sellouter is morally evil; the retreatist, in contrast, is, to put it kindly, terribly misguided. The sellouts are not worth talking to; the retreatists must realize that it is *not* betraying the cause, far from it, to fight against evil; and not to abandon the real world.

The retreatist becomes indifferent to power and oppression, likes to relax and say who cares about material oppression when the inner soul is free. Well sure, it's good to have freedom of the inner soul. I know the old bromides about how thought is free and how the prisoner is free in his inner heart. But call me a low-life materialist if you wish, but I believe, and I thought all libertarians and conservatives believed to their core, that man deserves more than that, that we are not content with the inner freedom of the prisoner in his cell, that we raise the good old cry of "Liberty and Property," that we demand liberty in our external, real world of space and dimension. I thought that that's what the fight was all about.

Let's put it this way: we must not abandon our lives, our properties, our America, the real world, to the barbarians. Never. Let us act in the spirit of that magnificent hymn that James Russell Lowell set to a lovely Welsh melody:

Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
'Twixt that darkness and that light.

Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow
Keeping watch above His own. ■

Is Clinton a Bastard?

by M.N.R.

We instinctively knew it all along, but now it looks like it's confirmed: our beloved President, William Jefferson Blythe IV Clinton, is indeed a bastard. It turns out that old rapscallion Bill Jeff Blythe III was still married to Wanetta Alexander when he allegedly tied the knot to Virginia Cassidy, who bears the enormous weight of historical guilt for giving birth to that Creep in the White House.

But if Bill Jeff III was married when he hitched up with Ginny, this makes him a bigamist, and it makes that Man in the White House a bastard.

Here's some grist for the office betting pool: when will the next half brother/half sister of Bill Jeff IV turn up? Talk about "traveling salesmen stereotypes!"

How many *RRR* readers don't know how many siblings they have? Is this a Jukes family in the White House, or what?

Do we want a bastard in the White House? Impeach Clinton! ■

Where Intervene Next?

by M.N.R.

It must be fun being an interventionist these days. The world is his oyster, and it presents a cornucopia of riches on where to intervene next. So many tempting opportunities to "cure starvation" or impose "democracy," to kill "warlords" and other bad guys, to bomb and strafe and feed and occupy.

Somalia

There is the bipartisan Bush/Clinton Somalia caper. It began last fall, if you remember, as a purely "humanitarian" operation. The problem was that there was "anarchy" in Somalia, no regular government, just a bunch of battling warlords, and it became the U.S. armed forces' mission to go in there with food and CARE packages to pacify the war lords and feed everyone. Purely short-run mission. Out by Clinton Inaugural Day. It was supposed to be a perfect mission for America's New Model Army, a "sensitive" army that doesn't kill any more, just hands out food to starving children, the sort of army built for today's sensitive soldiery.

Well, things immediately and predictably began to go sour. We at *RRR* might have written the script. First starvation *in*creased, because the blundering free aid screwed up the Somalian food supply system. Second, the happy Somalians, who first greeted the American/UN army as liberators and feeders, began to turn sullen, especially since the U.S. decided that among the

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slew of "warlords" there was one really *bad guy* warlord, General Aidid, who controlled half of the capital city of Mogadishu. Americans have a deep need to see all foreign quarrels as two-sided: Bad Guys vs. Good Guys, the GG being defined as all opponents of the Bad Guys. The idea of multi-sided Equally Bad warlords fighting each other is too nuanced for the average Americano to comprehend: besides, multi-faceted warfare can scarcely justify massive American intervention on one side or the other. And so Aidid, who actually had been the originally major welcomer of U.S. troops, now became the sole U.S. target. And when some Paki UN troops fired into a protesting unarmed Somali crowd, the U.S. shelled some Aididian posts in retaliation, killing more Somalis. [Why are Americans supposed to avenge Paki (and Moroccan) troop losses?]

All these events escalated and unified Somali hatred against the UN and against the U.S. in particular, as usual the main agitator and arm-twister inside the UN for massive intervention. Finally, Aididians ambushed American troops, killing four U.S. servicemen. U.S. blood is now drawn, and the Clinton regime is, of course and as we predicted, dropping the humanitarian/food mask, and taking up more and more of the gun, vowing retaliation, war crimes trials, and the usual apparatus of armed vengeance. Isabel Paterson's Humanitarian has indeed trotted out the Guillotine.

Is it too late to stop this senseless escalation? Hey look, this is not New Model intervention; it's the same old Wilsonian baloney, the same crazed crusade to feed and dominate and rule the world. Talk about your quagmires! Out, out before it's too late! The Italian UN troops finally got out, to much U.S. recrimination, because the Italians wanted the UN to negotiate with Aidid instead of singling him out for demonization. The reason: the Italians know something about Somalia; they ruled the region in the 1930's. But of course the U.S. never bothers to listen to people who know something about a region; it might learn something it doesn't want to hear. As Harry Schwartz, an economist and former *NY Times* editorialist not know for "isolationism," wrote prophetically in *USA Today* (July 19):

> Somalia's basic problem was not lack of food.... It was and is the existence of warring factions.... Each faction has a leader we call a warlord, but his followers all think of him as a Somali George Washington.... To the Somalis, the current U.S. policy there looks as though we are trying to impose our rule on that country. Of course, we can continue machine-gunning Somalis in Mogadishu streets from our helicopters.... It is time to recognize we made a mistake and get U.S. soldiers—and the rest of the UN forces—out of Somalia. Let the Somalis decide their own problems and their own fate....

Bosnia

I guess it was inevitable. The one and only place, foreign or domestic, where Clinton had evolved a fairly sensible policy, a policy of restraint, was in Bosnia. Not of course because his intentions were good. But because any military person or anyone familiar with the Balkans was counseling abstention from the Balkan mess; intervention could only be futile and counterproductive. But Clinton, as we all know by now, can't stand up to any pressure, and the anti-Serb hysteria by the dozen or so neoconservative pundits (aided and abetted by liberal pundits) proved irresistible. And so the Clinton administration began making bomb-the-Serb noises once again. And not only *bomb* the Serbs; because now it turns out that bombing in those crowded mountains and forests wouldn't work; therefore we need American spotters *on the ground* in Bosnia to direct U.S. planes where precisely to drop the bombs (as well as other spotters, I suppose, to direct planes where to drop those food packages). In short, the U.S. is going to need to *put troops* on the ground in Bosnia to support the air offensive.

Well! *How long* do any of you think a Yankee Serb-spotter is going to last in those Bosnian mountains? I shudder to think of the death rate in *that* little operation.

Query: why is it that the same pundits who keep yowling about every Muslim being a "terrorist," want Americans to kill and die to save Muslims in Bosnia? What is there about *Bosnian*

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Muslims that make them uniquely lovable?

Tajikistan: "Uncle Sam Will Take Care Of Everything."

I have long wished upon our interventionists' heads that they decide to intervene in...Afghanistan! Afghanistan, the graveyard of the Soviet Union, where heavily armed and trained Soviet troops, equipped with planes and helicopters and all the rest, could never conquer. In the decade Soviet troops invaded and tried to occupy Afghanistan, 15,000 Soviet troops died in those harsh mountains, taking the Soviet Union down with them.

But look at Afghanistan. It's got all the requirement for U.S. intervention: it's got lots of genocide—a huge chunk of the population are either dead or refugees; it's got warlords and armies that are still fighting; it's got Communist or "ex"- Communist dictators; it's got lots of Islamic "fanatics"; it's got bitter ethnic warfare, largely between the Pushtoons in the East, the Tajiks in the North, and the Turkmens in the West; it's got a lot of starvation; and there's hardly a "democrat" in sight. Perfect fodder for the massive intervention that, if handled properly, could last a lifetime. And who knows, the U.S. Empire might even follow the USSR down the chute.

Well, nothing has even been hinted about U.S. intervention/invasion of Afghanistan, but things are warming up nicely in neighboring Tajikistan to the North. Tajikistan, part of the old Soviet Union, has been having a deeply satisfying ethnic civil war, full-scale war for the past year. In the last six months, out of a population of 5.1 million, fully a tenth has been shifted or "cleansed," and 20,000 people have been killed. The official government holding on to the western Tajik capital of Dushanbe is the old Commie, or "ex" Commie government, resting for its support on the governments of Russia (including the sainted Yeltsin), of neighboring Uzbekistan in the West (also in the hands of "former" Communist rulers), and the clans or tribes in the northwest who had been favored by the old Soviet regime. Opposing the Commie Tajik government of Emomali Rakhmonov, on the other hand, is a rebel coalition, resting on peasants and mountain tribes in the East and South, near the Afghan border; the rebels are observant Muslims.

The United States finds it hard to resist intervention anywhere.

Indeed, the rebels are a coalition of anti-Communist Democrats and Islamic fundamentalists.

"Ex" Communists like Yeltsin and Uzbek President Islam A. Karimov, are justifying their strong support for the Commie government of Tajikistan by invoking the menace of "Islamic fundamentalism" spreading northward from Afghanistan like the plague. On the other hand, the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, on the northeastern border of Tajikistan, and of Turkmenistan, west of Uzbekistan, have been openly critical of the fundamentalist alibi.

The United States, which finds it hard to resist intervention anywhere, is edging toward getting into this hot potato. The Clinton Administration has already appointed James Collins, deputy chief of its Moscow Embassy, as "regional coordinator" to "help resolve disputes" in the old Soviet Union, the job to begin in the fall. Yeah right. I'm glad to see that *Pravda* (Moscow) had the proper sardonic response to this Clintonian move. It wrote that the Clinton Administration had not yet decided whether to use the Somalian or the Bosnian model of "pacification" in Tajikistan. In any case, *Pravda* concluded, "Soon the Russians won't have to worry about their fate anymore. Uncle Sam will take care of everything."

But Uncle Sam will have a difficult time trying to figure out on *which side* to intervene. How is it going to sort out the Good Guys from the Bad Guys? Let's see: on the one hand, Commies Bad; on the other hand, Democrats Good but Islamic Fundamentalists Bad.

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The Commie/Islamic problem of course reached its peak during the Soviet war in Afghanistan, when Uncle Sam decided that the Afghan resisters to the Soviet army were heroic freedom fighters, anti-Communist democrats who were inveterate readers of John Dewey, Sidney Hook, and all the other champions of global democracy. As a result, we armed the Afghans to the hilt, supplied them with hand-held anti-aircraft missiles which they used to shoot down Bad Soviet helicopters, etc. But no sooner did the Soviet troops pull out, when it turned out that the democratic Afghan Freedom Fighters had transformed themselves *overnight* into evil Islamic fundamentalist fanatics, dedicated to putting the veil back on women. Inside the dust jackets of the books of Hook and Dewey there turned out to be...the Koran!

Inside the dust jackets of the books of Hook and Dewey there turned out to be...the Koran!

Indeed, the fat, diabetic "fanatic" blind sheik, he of the terrorists and the UN Building, got his start as a freedom fighter in Afghanistan, reputedly a CIA asset in that brave struggle for democracy. Poor blind sheik: a victim of the latest twist of the historical dialectic!

So: if Mr. Collins and the Clinton Administration play their cards right, who knows? We might wind up with American bombers, helicopters, and ground "spotters" invading the mountains of Tajikistan, if not of neighboring Afghanistan itself.

Iraq

And then, of course, if he's got nothing else to do, Bill Clinton can always bomb Baghdad again. Hell, that's always good for a few points in the approval ratings.

How About Korea?

Ruminating over our next intervention, an old friend of mine the other day brought up that old unresolved problem: Korea. Here's what Korea offers for our interventionists' delectation:

— An authentically hard-line, dictatorial, unreconstructed Commie regime, headed by the evil Marshal Kim Il-Sung.

— A "democratic," "pro-Western" South Korea.

— An unresolved war, or even American defeat, that cries aloud for vengeance. In contrast to Vietnam, Korea for left-liberals was the last Good War of the Cold War. North Korea had "aggressed" against the South, violating all left-liberal-neocon canons of international behavior.

— North Korea is rumored to be working on nuclear weapons.

So: we can bomb, nuke North Korea back to the Stone Age to our hearts' content, and the terrain is not as inconveniently jungle-y as it was in Vietnam.

And the war could take a satisfyingly l-o-n-g, L-O-N-G time! ■

Fostergate!

by M.N.R.

Every Administration is marked by lies and evasions, but Bill Clinton has the remarkable ability to change his story (i.e. lie and evade) *on a dime*, and yet without incurring the implacable wrath of the American public. One of the most important and rapid Clintonian changes up front he seems to be getting away with: the egregious coverup of the mysterious killing of White House counsel, kindergarten buddy of Clinton's and law partner of Hillary's, 48-year-old Vincent Foster, Jr.

Fact: in the middle of the day, Vincent Foster's body was found in a park in McLean, Va., outside of Washington. He had been shot and killed with a gun that nobody knows he owned. Moreover, the gun was a combinant of two other guns, the sort of thing one does when one doesn't want a gun to be traced.

The immediate response of the Clinton White House was to be tearful, puzzled, but peculiarly eager to "get the killing behind us." On the one hand, Clinton and other friends and colleagues claimed that Foster had showed no signs of depression or erratic behavior, and was always an emotional

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Rock of Gibralter; yet Clinton & Company showed no eagerness to probe the mysterious death. On the other hand, the Justice Department pledged a full probe into the death, as befits a killing of a top White House official. The Justice Department professed eagerness at getting to the bottom of the mystery.

It took only a few days for a change of line to set in. Foster's wife claimed that he *was* depressed, beset by the Washington pressure-cooker, and it was also asserted that Clinton had called his old friend for 20 minutes before the killing in order to "cheer him up." How come that Clinton had said nothing about the "cheer-up call" when the killing was discovered? Change of Line Number One.

And, furthermore, if Vince Foster hated Washington life and longed to return to the peace and quiet of Little Rock, why didn't he simply do so?

Next, came a curious and unexplained shift in the stance of the Justice Department. No, it said, the Justice Department was only engaging in a minimal low-level "inquiry" assisting the U.S. Park Police, who are in charge of the investigation. Change of Line Number Two. Further, since the Park Police was convinced that there was no murder here, the Justice Department has no authority to probe further, and will confine itself to figuring out whether Foster had been depressed. As for the U.S. Park Police, they have no intention of even interviewing the Clintons or the other kindergarten pal, Chief of Staff Thomas ("Mack") McLarty, about their long-time buddy's possible depression or mental state.

Now, gentlemen, this simply will not do. A top White House counsel and aide has been shot and killed in mysterious circumstances. We need to know, quite simply: who killed Vincent Foster? And why was he killed? Was he murdered? If he did commit suicide, was this event caused by blackmail? Remorse? Or what? Is it a coincidence that the killing of Vincent Foster came shortly after he was named in the July *RRR* ("The Arkansas-Stephens Connection") as part of the Rose/Stephens/BCCI connection?

What we need is a deep, lengthy, and well-funded independent probe, *with* subpoena power, that will go into every nook and cranny of the Foster-Clinton-Rose connection, that will be fearless in finding out the truth, that will probe deeply into the lives of the entire crew, and will expose it all for the American public. One of the

Quotes That Need No Comment

Mr. [Alan] Greenspan is a compulsive courtier, rarely turning down tennis at the White House or missing a cocktail party of any political hue...And he has what one senior Bush official calls "the greatest economic bedside manner of anyone who came to Washington." — *The Economist*

Legally, we have free speech. But the Israel lobby, not content with owning many important media organs, tries to keep potential dissenters good and scared. It is not enough for the lobby to have a voice; its opponents—usually American patriots—must be shut up.... The worst of this is that most Americans think they are hearing all points of view on the Mideast when they aren't. They don't realize how many normally outspoken journalists are keeping their mouths prudently sealed on one issue.... We have taboos that aren't even acknowledged as taboos, and nothing is more insidious than the illusion of freedom without its substance. This won't be the land of the free again until it's the home of the brave. — Joe Sobran, *The Wanderer*

"THE UNHOLY TRINITY [AIPAC, ADL, AND THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS]: AMERICAN JEWISH NEOCONS REBEL AGAINST 'LAND FOR PEACE'" — Robert I. Friedman, *The Village Voice*

Journalists have a job to do, and cannot pull their punches at wrongdoing on the assumption that high officials may be mentally ill. — William Safire, *New York Times*, on the Foster case

I'm Jewish, homosexual, alcoholic, a communist—*and I'm a cripple!* — Jane Bowles, the late playwright

I've been criticized for doing more than one thing at once. I've always felt—can you do one thing at once? Can you do—wouldn't it be nice if all you had to do was go to work and not take care of your family? Would it be nice if you could pay all your bills and not earn any money to pay them? I don't understand this whole—you can't do one thing at once. But anyway, that's what they say. — Bill Clinton

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problems of Lawrence Walsh as independent counsel is that his emphasis, perhaps because of the way his commission was set up, was on indictment and trial. Instead, the emphasis should be on ferreting out all aspects of the truth, on digging deep into the lives, fortunes, and interactions of these people. Truth is the crucial point; indictments can always come later. In short, we need the sort of open-ended inquiry that is usually denounced as a "fishing expedition." Well, what's wrong with a fishing expedition? How *else* do you find any fish? ■

Losing The Culture War: Republicans Roll Over For The Left

by M.N.R.

The Republicans in Congress have done good work in opposing some of the more egregious of Clinton's socialistic economic plans. So, why is it that the Republicans have failed shamefully and consistently (with one exception: see below) in opposing any of the horrible and egregiously leftist appointments that the Clintonians have hurled at our heads? Why have the Republicans rolled over and played dead, becoming groveling pussy-cats, as the Clintonians have come up with one ultra-left horror after another? The reason is that the Republicans have already lost the culture war. They have bought the leftist charge, hook, line and sinker, that *any* cultural opposition to the left is shameful, "racist," "sexist," "homophobic," and all the other smear slogans with which the Left has been able to bring all of its potential opponents to heel. The Republican Party, down deep, is the country club party, and the country clubs have long given up on the culture war, have long surrendered to the enemy. Only much of the right-wing masses remain defiant and unbowed, but, shorn of any spokesmen, and under continual barrage by the media, the intellectual elite and the bureaucracy, they have been largely reduced to sullen silence.

It has always been an irritating habit of the liberal media to hand out unsolicited advice to conservatives. In the decades before the Reagan triumph, the advice, in the name of "value-free pragmatism," urged the Republicans, for their own good of course and for the sake of their political health, to adopt the siren song of "moderation" (i.e. accepting the New, Fair, and various other "Deals" foisted on the country by the Democrats) and to abandon "extremism." One would think that conservatives would be deeply suspicious of any advice handed them by their mortal enemies, but that's not the way it appears to work. Even after Reagan's victory gave the lie to the moderates, the liberals continued their work, managing to deflect Reaganite "extremism" to the safer realm of economics, and away from the cultural issues in which the liberals are fanatically interested. If conservatives would like to know the winning issues to stress, they could do worse than trying to see what issues really drive the Left to distraction. And the answer should be all too clear: the Left will grudgingly allow Rightists to talk about marginal tax rates or cuts in the capital gains tax or even limited privatization of garbage disposal. What really sends them up the wall is any stress on the hot-button "social issues," any threat to roll back the vast "social gains" experienced in recent decades by the left cultural movement. In short, gains by the systematic assault on Euro-white heterosexual males in the name of "anti-racism." "multiculturalism," feminism, "transgenderism," and all the rest.

None of the horrendously leftist appointments of Bill Clinton could be challenged by conservatives because every one of them has cunningly come wrapped in the untouchable and sanctifying clothing of victimology and of "oppressed" groups, groups embodying a "diversity" that have become uncriticizable regardless of ideology.

Hence, Republicans rolled over and played dead for a monstrous parade of leftist appointments. Thus, Ruth Ginsburg, a left feminist with the general demeanour of a diminutive beetle, is hailed on all sides as a "moderate" and is virtually escorted onto the Supreme Court by both parties and all factions: the fact that she wants to crack down on "hate" thoughts goes unnoticed amidst the general festivity. Even the usually astute and principled jurist Richard Epstein,

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only mildly critical of La Ginsburg in the *Wall St. Journal*, gladly concedes that she should be approved to the Court.

The Defective Condom Queen

Another horrendous appointment, that of the repellent gutter-mouth Joycelyn Elders to Surgeon-General, is meeting no real opposition. An ultra-leftwing Negress from Arkansas who wants to force sex "education" on all school kids from kindergarten up; a wisecracking condom-lover who decided to conceal a batch of defective condoms from the Arkansas public; a triple-dipper into federal and state funds who engaged in financial peccadilloes as a board member of an Arkansas bank; La Elders specializes in vicious assaults on Christianity. Elders in her wisdom denounces the Catholic Church for not being "Christian," for complicity in slavery and the Holocaust, as well as for "aborting" the "way of life of the Native American [sic., she means "Injun," or Red Man]," and vilely attacks Protestant conservatives for having "slave-master mentalities" and for "conducting a love affair with the fetus."

Elders is an ultra-leftwing Negress from Arkansas who wants to force sex "education" on all school kids from kindergarten up.

If Washington were a city with any shred of decency, vicious Joycelyn would be ridden out of town on a rail; instead, she is hailed for being "candid" and "plain spoken." Think of the fate of any white male who spoke with a fraction of Joycelyn's venom about any Politically Correct groups. It seems that in our current culture, only Negresses are allowed the luxury of plain speech.

It is interesting that Elder's defenders point to the precedent of C. Everett Koop, the Reaganite Surgeon-General. The sly implication that Elders is merely in a "tradition" of hectoring and loud-mouthed Surgeon Generals that transcends ideologies, ignores the fact that Koop's fanatical crusade for a "smoke-free America" was as Politically Correct as any movement can possibly be. What happened to the good old days when Surgeon Generals (assuming we need such creatures at all) were dignified scientists who kept their mouths shut?

Lesbo Action

In one of his consistently brilliant monthly columns in *Chronicles*, Dr. Samuel Francis ("Crossing the Line," August 1993), puts his finger on the craven cultural surrender of conservatives in these appointments. He points out that, in the hearings over the appointment of the repellent ultra-left lesbian activist Roberta Achtenberg to Assistant Secretary of HUD for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, all of La Achtenberg's Republican opponents except grand old Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) missed the crucial point. Senators like Lauch Faircloth and Trent Lott went out of their way to stress that their opposition to La Achtenberg was, Heaven forfend!, not due to her sexual "orientation," but only because she had used her power in San Francisco politics to try to cut off funds and school facilities from the Boy Scouts because they refuse to hire homosexual Scoutmasters. But in wimping out on the fundamental point, these "moderate" opponents, of course, studiously avoided trying to figure out *why* Achtenberg should take such a repellent position on a once revered institution in America. She took such a stand precisely because she herself has openly defined her entire life, including her politics, solely in terms of her "sexual orientation." Achtenberg's self-definition, her entire *reason* for being in politics, is to be a "lesbian activist." What *else* is she supposed to be doing in any position she's in, whether on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors or at HUD, but precisely to push the lesbian agenda? Which means to punish non-homosexual groups, to enforce "anti-discrimination" decrees to assure lesbian and gay affirmative action, and all the rest.

Sam Francis points out that La Achtenberg, like most nominees, brought along her family members to lend support and fondly introduced them to the Senate Committee. Since Achtenberg

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is a proud lesbian, the first "family member" she introduced to the Senate was "my beloved partner, Judge Mary Morgan." It is interesting, too, that this undoubtedly ardent supporter of "separation of Church and State" also brought along to the hearing "her rabbi," presumably to sneak some sort of religious authority into the proceedings. Some "authority," since if any of the Senators had been an *Orthodox* rabbi he would probably have leapt up and shouted "unclean!" at Achtenberg and her entourage, especially including the pro-lesbian rabbi.

But no senator came anywhere close to shouting "unclean!," just as none of them talked of defrocking Judge Morgan. As Francis points out, even though "the hearing room must have looked a bit like Maya Angelou's Inaugural poem come to life," of the four committee members who voted against La Achtenberg, "not a one of them uttered a word of disapproval of her perversion, her immorality, or her grotesque tastelessness."

On the Senate floor, only Jesse Helms warned of "crossing the threshold," for the first time nominating a lesbian to a top government post. And, in return, the Senate liberals forsook any hint of senatorial courtesy to vilify the veteran Senator. Leading the parade was the egregious junior Senator from Illinois, Carol Braun, who (as we shall see further below), speaking from her presumptive overweening moral authority as a Negress, and speaking in the current language of psychobabble, declared herself "frightened to hear the politics of fear and divisiveness and of hatred rear its ugly head on this floor." No one came to Jesse Helms's defense.

Back To The Closet (Bedroom)!

The problem with La Achtenberg is not that she is a lesbian in her private life, a fact about which no one would or should give a rap; the problem is that Achtenberg is a "lesbian activist," defining her entire life and political career in terms of her sexual activity/preference/orientation. As Sam Francis puts it, today's "queer militants" demand that "men and women be defined through their sexuality, that sexuality becomes ...the defining dimension of the personality, with other dimensions being suppressed or ignored." It would therefore not occur to a "sexually normal male heterosexual" nominated to a high government post, adds Francis, "to bring along his girl friend or his mistress to his confirmation hearing and introduce her to the senators..."

The cry of the Cultural Counter-Revolution should therefore be, to all the rebellious sex and "gender" groups: "Back to the Closet!" Or rather since "the closet" is a cramped and dark place where no one in his right mind would reside, "Back to the Bedroom!" What's wrong, after all, with sex in its proper place, the *privacy* of the bedroom? Indeed, the whole point of sex is that it's supposed to be private, and no one else's business. In

Rating Senate Republicans

Cloture on National Service

Clinton's national service, however "popular" it may be, is bad news for three reasons: not only for its expense to the taxpayer, and its provision of what amounts to welfare for young people who might come from wealthy families. Worst of all is its collectivist thrust: that "community service" in nonprofit activity is somehow morally superior to productive work to benefit consumers, work that of course receives its due income on the free market. The Republicans in the Senate were on the way to blocking this monstrous scheme by filibuster, when five Republican renegades broke ranks to vote for cloture on July 30, so as to ram through Clinton's national service scheme.

Special minus votes for the Renegade five:

Cohen (Maine) *Chafee* (Rhode Island)
Durenberger Minnesota) *Jeffords* (Vermont)
Hatfield (Oregon)

Ginsburg on the Court

Rating Republican votes on the Ginsburg Supreme Court appointment is all too easy. Only three Republican Senators had the guts to oppose this left-feminist disgrace to the Court, all in the name of "moderation," but actually in deference to the victimological groups Ruth Ginsburg embodies.

Three Republican profiles in courage:

Helms (N.C.) *Nickles* (Okla.) *Smith* (N.H.)

Pluses for the three: minuses for everyone else.

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the words of the old adage, "as long as you don't scare the horses." But the whole point of the sexual militants *is* to "scare the horses," to be in yo' face, to make sex into a public proclamation and a public definition. And yet, these same people are always declaiming about "the right of privacy" and that "government should stay out of the privacy of the bedroom." OK, here's a bargain for you. "Society" and government agree to stay out of the privacy of the bedroom, and in return, you guys keep that bedroom private!

We must return to an America where it would be just as idiotic and absurd to campaign for office as a "lesbian" or "gay" activist as it would to campaign as a "heterosexual activist."

Succumbing to Braun, or Braun Over Brains

As the only Negress in the U.S. Senate, Carol Braun has, for that very reason, been accorded by her colleagues the status of that body's unquestioned moral arbiter. Morally, La Braun rules the roost. During late June, in two dramatic confrontations, La Braun established her total dominance over her elders and betters.

First, Jesse Helms (again!) was in the process of putting through the Senate a routine extension of a patent for the insignia of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, a variant of the Confederate flag. Shaking and crying and yelling, La Braun harangued the Senate about slavery and oppression, that with this flag extension slavery, "like Dracula, has come back to haunt us," and that the proponents of the flag patent "would keep us slipping back into the darkness of division, into the snake pit of racial hatred," and blah blah blah. In fact, of course, it was the yelling and quivering La Braun who was injecting divisiveness and racial hatred into this simple bill. Worse yet, because of her very stand, the Senate reversed itself, and defeated this innocuous "symbol of racism and slavery" by a vote of 3 to 1.

We are now in the hands of a vicious ultra-carpetbagger regime, which desecrates the Old South continually.

After Braun's speech, everyone rushed up to commend her "courage," her demonstration of the fact that one person can make a difference, her embodiment of the "value of diversity." And after Braun's speech, as a friend of mine witnessed on TV, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer (Dems., Calif.) rushed up to "administer therapy" to La Braun.

Braun's conquest of the Senate is a shameful example of the vicious hatred of the South that permeates American life today. When that conqueror of the South Abraham Lincoln came to Richmond after the War Between the States,he had the band play "Dixie" in order to symbolize healing the great war. After the horrors of the carpetbag governments of Reconstruction were rolled back, that is from the mid-1870's down to recent years, the victorious U.S.A. honored the Confederacy, and tried to heal the battered South. But now all that is over, and ultra-Reconstructionists have set out to make the South pay and pay, once again. Why is there far more hysteria about slavery *now* than there was in the 1870s? Why can't the North and South "put that war behind them?" Clearly, because we are now in the hands of a vicious ultra-carpetbagger regime, which desecrates the symbols of the Old South continually, and seeks to rub Southern noses perpetually in the muck.

Probably the most despicable response to Braun's rantings was that of that old stage Southerner, Senator Howell Heflin (D., Ala.). Having first supported the UDC flag bill, Senator Heflin got up and declared that his granddaddy fought for the Confederacy, but that "we must get racism behind us." Heflin is a traitor to the Old South. Howell Heflin, suh, is a scalawag and a Black Republican, and there are no worse epithets for a Southerner to receive.

But this was not to be the end of the day's triumph for Carol Braun. During the Judicial Committee's hearings on the Ruth Ginsburg nomination, Senator Orrin Hatch (R, Ut.) made the common Borkian comparison

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between *Roe v. Wade* and the famed *Dred Scott* decision of 1857. Hatch's point was that both decisions were bad in making judge-created law, law outside the jurisdiction of the statute or the Constitution. Mentioning *Dred Scot* was the signal for Braun to leap in with her own critique of constitutional interpretation. In her trademark quivering, yelling, and crying manner, Braun denounced Hatch for somehow being a defender of slavery, although Hatch was trying to imply precisely the opposite: that *Dred Scott* was as illegitimate a judicial decision as Roe v. Wade. Agree with Hatch or not on his interpretation or analogy, the chucklehead Braun missed his entire point. No matter: Braun's ranting demagogy about being "the only descendant of a slave in this committee" swept the day; still worse, Senator Hatch actually grovelled to Braun and "apologized"! So duplicitous was Braun that when reporters asked her who her "slave ancestors" were, she had no idea! Anything for a cheap shot!

Arguably, Braun is the least moral person in the not exactly pristine U.S. Senate.

Some moral authority is La Braun! Arguably, Braun is the least moral person in the not exactly pristine U.S. Senate. An ultra-leftist who hung around Communist front groups, a product of the sleazy and leftist Harold Washington machine in Chicago, a "welfare queen" who engaged in hanky-panky with her mother's welfare check, a Senatorial victor who promptly traipsed off to Europe with her lover at taxpayers' expense, this numskull can have no legitimate claim to any moral authority whatever. But just being a Negress sweeps the board.

For her part, the sainted La Ginsburg did not prove very impressive as a legal theorist. Trying to refute Hatch, Ginsburg asserted that "there is a stark distinction" between *Dred Scot* and *Roe*, Since *Dred Scott* upheld the right of slavery, whereas *Roe* expanded universal autonomy. Sure, Ruthie, but only trivially true; after all, no one asserted that *Scott* and *Roe* were *the same case*, just common examples of alleged judicial activism.

Why La Lani?

There is, of course, one and only one glaring exception to this pusillanimous surrender of the Republicans to the "multicultural" Clinton appointees. Why the exception? Why swallow all the others, yet fight back (successfully) to stop Lani Guinier? La Lani seems no worse than any of the other appointees; indeed, in contrast to most of the others, she is clearly intelligent and well-spoken, she didn't pout or cry or shake, and a debate over her Black Calhounian views would have been highly instructive.

So why La Lani? Here is indeed a mystery. The standard view is that Clint Bolick of the Left-libertarian, Kochtopusian, Institute for Justice, was able to mobilize opposition to Guinier by calling her a "quota queen" and making that slogan stick. But why isn't "condom queen" or "defective condom queen" equally effective?

No, another explanation for the Guinier Exception seems more plausible. The agitation against La Lani really began, not with Bolick, but with two highly influential left-liberal Jewish sources: the Jewish *Forward*, a venerable organ of Social Democracy, and the left-liberal American Jewish Congress. Jews have been sensitive to quotas ever since the old days of university admissions quotas, which were explicitly geographical and sometimes implicitly religious. And yet, of course, all these affirmative action Queens and Princes implicitly and sometimes explicitly champion racial quotas, so even this explanation is not completely satisfactory. Perhaps the real story goes back to Lani's West Indian mulatto father, the historian Professor Ewart Guinier, many times a "Fifth Amendment Communist" in the old days. Perhaps the answer lies in the old sectarian wars of the Left; who knows, maybe the major sin of the Guiniers, father and daughter, is that they defended Palestinian rights. It would bear looking into.

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The Culture War

Yes, we are engaged in a war far more vital and more cataclysmic than a war over marginal tax rates. We are engaged in a titanic struggle over culture, indeed over the very soul of America. We are fighting for our lives and for our souls. Clinton promised us a ruling elite that "would look like America." He has given us a veritable Freak House, a zoo, a Chamber of Horrors. One apparition is worse than the other. We want leaders who look and think and act not "like America," whatever that may be, but as America can be and should be and once was. We want our America back, the America of 1930s movies, the America that "looked like" and could produce a Jimmy Stewart, a Clark Gable, a Barbara Stanwyck, a Katherine Hepburn, cultural icons and plots that could uplift and inspire and reflect our most cherished values and aspirations. This is not simply an exercise in cultural nostalgia; we want our America back, the America of thrift and self-respect and respect for private property, the America of a strictly limited and decentralized government. We want our wonderful America back, and we mean to have it. ■

A New Libertarian Country... Again!

by Joe Melton

There is among libertarians a recurrent desire to escape our social ills, and to run off to their own New Country somewhere, a country to be peopled only by the pure of heart. Some of these versions of purist separatism are confined to taking over a town or county in some remote area: "Why don't all libertarians move to... Yucca County, and Take It Over?" All such projects founder on the simple and yet profound question: Who the Hell wants to live in Yucca County?—a profound question because those who might want to live there are in fact *already* there. To put it another way: all such projects are crackpotty because they, in one form or another, give up advantages of location, or, at the limit, give up the advantages of the market economy and existing society in order to retreat to the hills or to some island, in Randian Utopian terms, to "Galt's Gulch." Even our corrupt and State-ridden world enjoys numerous advantages of society and the market which, however crippled, few sane people wish to abandon.

Going Underground

Over the past forty years, these New Country or Retreatist projects have been legion. There was the guy who decided to escape the toils of the State by Going Underground, which in his case meant literally *Going Underground* by building beautiful cities somewhere in a cave. Another decided to Escape the State by going "Nomad," that is, by being always on the move, living in some trailer with no fixed abode. What happened to these people? Who knows? Who cares? By the very nature of their projects, they disappeared, were Lost to History, which is undoubtedly best all around.

Among retreatist projects, however, New Country schemes are perforce more formal, since they require more than one or two eager schismatics. Many of the schemes have been elaborate, involving the drawing up of a New Constitution or new laws (often written by a Hungarian-American-Randian real estate developer in Colorado named Mike Oliver), as well as engineering blueprints of just how a new country will be founded or built. Usually, however, they suffer from at least one fatal flaw: trying to take advantage of some legalistic quirk in international law. In this way, the New Countryites are akin to Tax Rebels who, while properly contemptuous of all legislative and bureaucratic government, for some reason deeply believe that *let them* (the rebels) have the chance to present their constitutional arguments in a court, and the Honorable Judge will react to the Rebel's speech goggle-eyed, and declare, in effect: "By God, sir, you're right! I hereby declare the federal income tax unconstitutional!" Why the Tax Rebels don't realize that the Honorable Judges are part and parcel of the governmental system they deplore, and are not simply instruments of Sweet Reason, passeth understanding.

The North Sea Project

The first New Country scheme was, in a sense, the most thorough and the most lovable, foundering however on their legalistic reliance on the formal-

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ities of international law. During the 1950's and 1960s, a group of libertarian engineers in Southern California hammered out engineering and legalistic blueprints for dredging up a mighty new island in the North Sea, in a region where the sea is shallow and where international law decrees that the sea be free from any nation-State control. The group would form a company, dredge the island, and sell shares and parcel out or rent out the land (as I remember, something like 22 miles by 10 miles in size), and there were charming discussions and debates between anarcho-capitalists and Randian minimalists on how the legal system and polity would work.

Just as the California engineers were ready to go public, however, oil was discovered in the North Sea, and the abutting nations, *in total disregard of international law*, assumed de facto ownership and control of the entire North Sea. The libertarian engineers were indignant, and even though they were morally and juristically right, they recognized that their project was doomed. Exit the North Sea project.

There were many succeeding projects, and one damning hole in all of them was the placid assumption that simply because we had a self-proclaimed "new nation" and it was outside recognized three-mile or thirty-mile limits, that the existing nations would permit a new, unregulated nation to come into existence—a libertarian nation which, for example, would blithely disregard all existing international anti-drug laws and protocols. Fat chance!

The Libertarian Coral Reef

There was, for example, the "libertarian coral reef" discovered somewhere in the middle of the Pacific. The New Countryites swung into action: Whoopee! There were some problems about staking claim to the coral reef, since it is under water most of the time; one time, a New Country [NC] boat went out to plant some cockamamie NC flag on the reef, but it couldn't find the reef, since it happened to be under water. Only libertarians, by the way, are naive enough to disregard what would seem to a normal person to be an overwhelming objection to such a flourishing new country: Who the Hell wants to live under water? Libertarians are the sort of people who are not in the slightest interested in the fact that man is a land animal. At any rate, the NC boat intrepidly returned when the reef was visible and planted the new flag; unfortunately, sinister major powers called on their surrogate, nearest Old Nation, the Kingdom of Tonga. The immensely fat King of Tonga sent some canoes of warriors, dressed in full Tongese regalia, which rowed to the reef, uprooted the heathen NC flag, and planted the noble flag of the Tongese Kingdom, which presumably still flutters and waves there to this day, unless it became waterlogged and submerged. Exit Operation Coral Reef.

The First Atlantis Project

The Pacific has not been the only ocean receiving the ministrations of New Countryites. In the Caribbean there was a substantial libertarian-*cum*-right-wing freebooter movement of Americans sponsoring a revolution in the British colony of Abaco, but the Abacan government cracked down and aborted the movement. There was also the Atlantis Project, sponsored by a drug manufacturer. The Atlantisians, headquartered near New York City, thought of their New Country movement as occurring in phases. I remember they had a little newsletter, which once proudly announced: "Phase One Accomplished: Motel Purchased!"

The libertarian drug manufacturer in charge of the movement had, you see, a strategic vision. Phase One of the movement was to buy a cheap motel, which indeed was accomplished. The motel overlooked the Hudson and was on a well-travelled route. Why buy a motel? Because the Movement could gather to live at that motel, and there build...The Boat. They had a blueprint for the boat, and if you visited the motel, you could see the boat going up in the parking lot.

Why build a boat? Why, of course, to float downstream and sail to the Caribbean. Once actually in place in the Caribbean, The Boat could be used to manufacture what I think would be concrete floating "islands," although the details are bit hazy at this point. Once these islands were in place, the owner-settlers on these concrete slabs would immediately apply to the United Nations for new country status, which, in the minds of the plan-

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ners, would be quickly achieved. And *voila*, a new libertarian country!

The Atlantisians were nothing if not optimistic and forward-looking. I remember one newsletter headline: "Movement Grows by 50 Percent!"—true enough, except the achievement was diminished when one looked at the actual numbers, and saw that movement growth was only from two members to three.

Why *build* the boat rather than buy one? To an outside observer, such a course seemed simpler and faster. But the very asking of such a question demonstrated that one was not a New Countryite at heart. The reply came that building the boat would develop the pioneering skills necessary to living and flourishing on the concrete slab. Any deeper questioning would of course have opened up the Ultimate Metaphysical Question which no NCer ever wants to face: Who the Hell wants to live on a concrete slab?

In the event, the boat-building failed signally to develop pioneering skills. When the boat was finally finished, and sailed down the Hudson, the government wouldn't let it go out to sea. The reasoning of the statist spoilsports? That the blueprint was for a *wooden* boat, whereas the material of the boat was concrete [these early Atlantisians seem to have had a passion for concrete], and if the boat was allowed to go to sea, it would sink.

The Atlantisians were able to liberate the boat from statist control... and sink .

What finally happened? I understand that eventually, the Atlantisians were able to liberate the boat from statist control, that it went out to the Caribbean, and ...sank. Exit the First Atlantis Project.

Vanuatu

The most active NC movement was the last recorded one—again in the Pacific. This cause agitated the entire libertarian movement during the late 1970s, and even swept into its path libertarian philosophy professor John Hospers. Some keen-eyed NCers had seen that the New Hebrides, in the South Pacific, had long been ruled by a British-French condominium, and then discovered that the natives on one of these islands seemed to nod vigorously when Wealthy Americans [wealthy at least by their standards] came and talked to them of liberty and the Declaration of Independence. Since the natives were going to get their independence anyway, U.S. libertarians began to hawk it up for the native allegedly libertarian movement on one of the islands, and the inevitable Mike Oliver wrote the Constitution and designed the flag for the new libertarian nation.

But there is always a hitch somewhere in a New Country. In this case, while the French rulers were amenable to a libertarian island, the English government sponsored a native Left Anglican priest named Father Lini, [a living Randian nightmare] and the bad British-Anglican natives came in their canoes, or whatever, occupied the libertarianish island, arrested the native libertarian leaders, and established Left neo-English rule in the new Republic of Vanuatu in 1980. The Republic of Vanuatu is decidedly *not* libertarian. Exit Operation Jefferson/Vanuatu.

Atlantis Once More!

I hadn't heard about any NC project since the collapse of Vanuatu. Recently, I've been feeling that the time is ripe, especially since various secessionist or separatist or retreatist projects seem to be once again in the air. In the launching of bizarre projects, can libertarians be far behind?

Sure enough, another New Country project surfaced! This bears the same name as the defunct Atlantis Project, although I doubt any connection except the name.

The new Atlantis Project is pushing a new country of "Oceania" which will be "set in a tropical paradise," and featuring a "sea city" and "underwater hotels" [sound familiar?] Oddly enough, even though the emphasis is on the sea, Atlantis Project is headquartered about as far spiritually from the sea as one can get: in the desert at Las Vegas.[?!] In December, a Vegas

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"convention" of the Atlantis Project will reveal an architectural model of the new sea city.

The new Atlantis Project, I'm afraid, seems to be far less lovable, though holding no greater prospect of success, than its predecessors. For one thing: the previous New Country schemes were largely people spending their own money and resources trying to bring their dream, however wacky, to fruition. The emphasis of the new Vegas gang seems to be almost exclusively: *send us money!* For $100 and up, you can participate in the Atlantis dream. For $15 you can get a copy of the Oceania Constitution [sound familiar?], for another $29 a copy of the new country's "laws," for $5 to $250 you can get the Oceania flag in different sizes. A T-shirt costs $15 and a bumper sticker $3. You get the picture.

But if you're interested in really Big Money, you can contribute more to the Oceania movement. You can get your name—your very own name—wow!, "immortalized" on a wall in the "initial" sea city (presumably the first underwater city of many in "Oceania"). For a mere $100 your name can be carved in an Oceania wall in silver ("A Dolphin Sponsor"), for a mere $250 your name can be etched in a wall in gold ("A Magellan Sponsor"), and—the biggest bargain of all—for a measly $2,000 contribution you can have your name carved *in platinum* in the Oceania city wall—which would make you a "Neptune Sponsor."

Of course, if you want to, your contribution can be made in the form of a "monthly pledge" to "help us better plan ahead" —I bet!

To any readers who might be tempted to jump on the Oceania name project bandwagon, two thoughts: (1) How long do you think it will be before the underwater Oceania wall exists for your name to be carved into it? Do you think a CD might be a more prudent investment in the meanwhile? and (2) As they like to say in New York, I've got a wonderful bridge across the East River I'll sell you, dirt cheap.... ■

The Trouble With Vouchers

by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

The school-choice initiative on the California ballot this November would mandate that the state give $2,600 vouchers to private-school students. Conservatives and libertarians have so far supported the initiative, although it is a step in the wrong direction.

Today, California private schools are among the most unregulated in the country. Teachers need not be state certified, and the student testing requirements are minimal. That makes them responsive to parents, the people who pay the tuition.

Voucher supporters say that putting government money in these schools won't increase regulation. The initiative itself says that "no regulation of private schools... beyond that required by" the initiative "shall be issue or enacted....

Elsewhere, however, the initiative puts conditions on schools. For example, it allows "the State Board of Education" to "choose and administer tests reflecting national standards." No government is ever given a power it doesn't use. Imagine private schools having to obey Hillary and the Department of Education Clinton—instead of parents—on what children are taught.

Private schools may even self-regulate out of fear of losing their qualification for government subsidies. Jerry Falwell's Liberty University recently eliminated daily chapel attendance when it feared that state aid would be cut off.

The initiative also states that "no school which discriminates on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, or national origin may redeem scholarships." If we've learned anything in the last few years, it's that the anti-discrimination nose is followed by the entire statist camel.

In academia and business, "non-discrimination" means quotas, and it must be so, since no government official can read people's hearts. He therefore counts the numbers. In schools, that will mean racially and sexually proportionate discipline, promotion, assignment to honors classes, etc. or lawsuit threats orchestrated by the ACLU.

The state shall also "prevent from redeeming scholarships any school" that teaches "hatred of any person or group ...." But "hatred" is a politically loaded term. It clearly encompasses a

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Skinhead High (if not a Crips 'n Bloods Elementary). But is it hate for: Pentecostals to teach that Catholics aren't going to Heaven? Baptists to teach against homosexuality? Catholics to say that women cannot be priests? Pat Buchanan's mild political platform was almost universally charged with promoting hate. Terms like this are taffy in leftist hands.

Can a vouchered school kick out dimwitted or misbehaving kids? Not without lawsuits. The initiative says that a school can dismiss a student only if he is "deriving no substantial academic benefit" or is "responsible for serious or habitual misconduct." But the government courts will determine the meaning of "substantial" and all the other qualifiers, with the counsel of the ACLU.

As Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed, Jr., argues in *Policy Review* (Summer 1993), it wasn't abortion that "gave rise to the Religious Right. In fact, the spark that ignited the modern pro-family movement was the fear of increased government regulation of church schools." That's the best argument against vouchers.

Home schooling and small schools are spreading, but vouchers do not help them. "No school with fewer than 25 students may redeem scholarships," says the initiative. Instead, small schools, home schools, or newly established schools will face unfair competition from larger subsidized schools.

It's true that a school can reject vouchers. But competing with those that accept vouchers could put them out of business. Parents paying, say, $2,500 a year tuition can save that money or not. By default, if not design, the only private schools left will be under the close supervision of state and even federal officials.

The initiative also affects better public schools. They will have vouchered students arriving from everywhere to demand entrance. What if a suburban district refuses? It cannot. The initiative says all public schools must be open to children "regardless of residence." Thus the well-kept secret of California choice: it would effectively eliminate demarcations between districts.

Even its proponents admit that it will immediately increase state spending by $1.3 billion.

Many Californians pay high prices for homes in areas with decent public schools. Under this initiative, people will not have to live in an area to go to school there. That will not only increase demographic tensions, it will reduce the value of homes in areas with good school districts.

The residences that can't be discriminated against, by the way, aren't all in California. An existing amendment to the state constitution requires that immigrants (and children of illegals) be treated no differently than residents. Thus California will become the only place in the world where foreigners wanting a private education can force the natives to provide it. If there is one thing California doesn't need, it is more incentive for immigration.

The initiative will not save money. Even its proponents admit that it will immediately increase state spending by $1.3 billion, as reported in the *Los Angeles Times* (7-22-93). The alleged savings, it turns out, are in the distant future and rely on the generosity of politicians. Sounds like every other government program.

Public schools are in sad shape. But instead of shaping them up, vouchers will make private schools subservient, abolish school districts, commit billions in new spending, and spur immigration. A better solution would be to cut taxes drastically. Californians would then have more discretionary income for private-school tuition. That would give us true school choice: people spending their own money. ■

Europe's Monetary Trouble

by L.H.R., Jr.

Albert Jay Nock said that the battle of our time is between

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market forces and government power. This month the market won in Europe, when the European Rate Mechanism (ERM) went down to defeat, and the idea of a single European currency with it.

For years, Eurocrats have used taxpayers' money to subsidize inflationary currencies through the EMS. No matter how much a European government depreciated its money through inflation, the value was not to drop more than 2.5% below harder currencies. But the system could not last, and serious strains began appearing two years ago. The end came when the overvalued French franc bit the dust (with speculators being blamed rather than politicians, of course).

The idea of European monetary union—the centerpiece of a centralized Europe—is dead.

Today, the new rules for Europe's currency values are so liberal as to be virtually meaningless. European currencies are again trading like commodities, with their respective values determined by supply and demand.

What's really riled officials, however, is that more than the ERM fell apart. The idea of European monetary union—the centerpiece of a centralized Europe—is also dead. It's "totally unrealistic now," says British Prime Minister John Major.

As early as the 1970s, Eurocrats planned a single currency issued by a single central bank. They advertised their "ecu" as a partner in a future three-currency world (dollar, yen, and ecu). This was to be a way station to world government and a world central bank when the three dominant currencies would be combined in a "bancor" or "phoenix," as advocated by J.M. Keynes and other dangerous statists.

The problem: as Ludwig von Mises demonstrated, no paper currency can come into existence by government decree. Government can print up tickets and call them money, but it cannot give them value. So the Brussels bureaucrats sought to make the ecu a composite of present European currencies.

But that raised still other problems. Depending on their countries' economic policies, some currencies are strong and some are weak. Germany, for example, is loathe to inflate, while Spain shouts ole! at the printing press.

Officials began to realize that to have a single currency, you first need a single central bank. But to have a single central bank, your first need a single currency. The Exchange Rate Mechanism was supposed to provide the way out of this "vicious circle." The ERM would retain individual currencies, but through controlled buying and selling, keep the values within a narrow range. Little by little, the ERM was supposed to bring currency values closer so that one day, the values could be fixed and the individual currencies no longer traded. The ecu would then be issued, and national currencies withdrawn.

The plan was probably doomed from the start. Why? Because it sought to override market decisions. If there's anything we've learned recently, it's that even the best and brightest bureaucrat is no match for a profit-seeking currency trader.

When the ERM was collapsing, all of Europe begged Germany to cut its interest rates, i.e. inflate. When it refused, it was "accused" of putting German interests ahead of European. It did, and it should.

Officials at the European Community and IMF and World Bank now warn of "currency chaos" and "monetary anarchy." That's good, of course. It means that currencies will be bought and sold like other commodities on the market.

There is an advantage for Americans here as well. Our own central bank has the permanent tendency to turn the dollar into a wallpaper peso. Competition with other currencies hinders that to some extent. If the Federal Reserve increases its inflation and weakens the dollar, U.S. investors have other, harder currencies they can turn to. That prospect makes the Fed a little more cautious about monetizing government debt.

Of course, despite their present benefits, fluctuating ex-

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change rates are no panacea. In fact, they are a very distant second-best solution.

We once had a system that gave us the efficiency of a single currency without the inflationary hazards of a single central bank. It was called the international gold standard. Every Western country had a different currency, but all were a weight of gold, and therefore fixed in relation to one another.

Until we can restore sound money, however, we should let the speculators have their day in the sun. It's the Eurocrats, after all, who are getting burned. ■

Cuba *Really* Libre

by L.H.R., Jr.

The ouster of Fidel Castro is inevitable now, and it's not too early to think about Cuba without him. The most important issue, of course, is the economy, which has been devastated by socialist management, price shocks, and trade embargoes. The population is one third larger than it was at the time of the revolution, but the economy is much smaller.

Yet in some ways, Cuba will be in a better position than the nations of Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union. Since few people expected the old regimes to fall as quickly and surely as they did, no one knew what to do afterwards. The result was a series of blunders that sacrificed a great deal of potential economic growth.

In Eastern Europe, for example, officials ignored the fact that the market economy cannot be centrally directed like the socialist economy. Russian was (and is) forever setting up Bureaus of Markets or Ministries of Privatization that only add more layers of government. The essential contribution of the free market is that it allows the economy to run itself, so long as the legal structure protects property and freedom of contract.

Russia and Poland made the terrible mistake of instituting progressive-income and capital-gains taxes to mimic Western nations. These taxes can only retard economic growth by penalizing wealth and capital accumulation.

If Cuba eliminated capital-gains and income taxes, it would immediately become a magnet for capital from all over the world. And Cubans would really have the incentive to work, save, invest, and produce because they would be able to keep the fruits of their labor.

In Eastern Europe, new governments have been tempted to mulct the public to pay off Communist debts and raise new revenue. This has impeded growth, and there is also a moral question. Why should the victims of Communism be taxed to pay off those who were stupid or evil

More Quotes That Need No Comment

How do you explain 2,000 young black men in ten years who have now signed onto the birth certificates of their mothers and 200 of them have married . . . ? These antibodies within these neighborhoods have called them to themselves . . . . You've got to eat the elephant one mouthful at a time. — Robert L. Woodson

David Boaz, Executive Vice President of the Cato Institute . . . observed that the increasing criticism of Fidel Castro came first from gays, and said, "Dictators should all learn that they can do anything they want to if they will just leave Jews, writers and gays alone."—Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns Newsletter, Spring 1993

I think you'll see a report from the Park Police essentially brushing under the rug a problem that really is the talk of the town here in Washington . . . . A lot of us feel that there's more to that [the Foster killing] than meets the FBI . . . was there any *intelligence* matter connected with it, or was there any scandal involving the Clintons that might be connected with it? — William Safire, on *Meet the Press*

[In] the September *Harper's* . . . Mark Hertsgaard reveals the existence of a 48-year-old Navy document which "contains strong circumstantial evidence that George Bush committed a war crime as a rookie Navy pilot in the South Pacific during World War II." It suggests that, after sinking a trawler, Bush strafed its survivors in their lifeboats, a violation of international military law . . . . *Newsweek*, , the *Los Angeles Times*, and *U.S. News & World Report*, all of which had the document last October, failed to ask Bush about it during the campaign. Bush's then-constant howls that Clinton "come clean" about having avoided the draft take on a different light when filtered through the terse "no comment" his office gave *Harper's* . . . . — Doug Ireland, *Village Voice*, August 17

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enough to loan money to Castro?

It will also be necessary to reassign property titles. Land and buildings confiscated during the revolution should be returned to the original owners or their heirs. Industrial capital created under Communism should be given to the workers as shares of stock.

The technique of privatization aside, the important thing is to move from collective ownership to private ownership, and not to try to manufacture a compromise between the two. Eastern European and Russian reformers found that this was like trying to change the direction of traffic a little at a time. The result is a pileup. Complete and immediate privatization is the only answer.

Cuba should also establish the freest labor markets in the hemisphere, which would help cushion the necessary mass firings of bureaucrats. Cubans should be free to work without regard to labor union restrictions, minimum wages, or race quotas. And employers should be able to hire and fire at will. The free labor market is the best full-employment policy ever designed.

Cuba should also open its borders to imports, and put no restrictions on the flow of money and goods out of the country.

Welfarism has been a temptation for all former communist countries. As in the old Soviet Union, many Cubans have become used to life without work. That's understandable in a system where pay and production have no relation to each other. But only asking people to make their own way can solve this dilemma.

If Cuba took these steps—complete privatization, zero income and capital-gains taxes, free labor markets, free trade, and no regulatory or welfare state—the economy would immediately set records for growth. In fact, Cuba would develop immigration problems, as U.S. and other citizens flooded an island paradise right off the coast of Florida.

The U.S. will try to prevent real economic freedom from being established in Cuba, as it has in Eastern Europe and Russia.

To do all this, however, Cuba will need to retain its political independence. The U.S. government will try to prevent real economic freedom from being established in Cuba, as it has in Eastern Europe and Russia, by sending missionary teams from the SEC, OSHA, tax police, and other agencies.

From invading the country to installing Batista to engaging in germ warfare* to trying to kill Castro, the U.S. has sought to control Cuba for more than a century. That's why the new Cuba cannot afford to take a nickel in U.S. foreign aid, to sign any military treaties with the U.S., or to allow CIA agents on its soil. Nor should it accept the "help" of such globalist fronts for the U.S. government as the International Monetary Fund. In Russia, for example, the IMF has been behind such crazy policies as currency switches, forced devaluations, and high tax rates.

The U.S. will also seek to prevent "vengeance" against Communists, as it has in Eastern Europe and Russia. Cuba should pay no attention, and jail, use in work gangs, or execute all secret police and other murdering Reds.

Our slogan for Cuba must be: Washington, D.C., Keep Your Sticky Fingers Off. After all, when Clintonian socialism is fully established here, we'll need some place to move. ■

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*In one of its many acts of state terrorism, the U.S. sought to introduce deadly germs into the Cuban pig population, the major source of meat.

P.C. Watch

by L.H.R., Jr.

Resume Boosters

Errol Sull, president of an employment agency for ex-cons, writes in the March 1993 issue of *Prison Life* that former prisoners looking for jobs should emphasize the "positive traits" that enabled them

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to commit their crimes. For example:

"*Hustling*: Good ability to sell; keen marketing sense; not easily disappointed; can talk with people of different ages, backgrounds, and educational levels; knows how to close a sale.

"*Murder/Manslaughter/Assault*: Strong confidence level; not afraid to speak up or ask questions; self-motivated; not easily intimidated; not bothered by stress; good sense of time management; excellent physical condition; can be counted on to get the job done.

"*Embezzlement*: Excellent accounting skills; patient; well-organized; detail oriented; professional demeanor; hands-on computer experience; goal-setter; resourceful; works well with little supervision.

"*Prostitution*: Works well independently or in a team situation; follows direction; not afraid of hard work; proven sales ability; outgoing personality; skilled in customer service." (*Harper's*, 7/93)

Jesus Who?

"Jesus Was His Name," a French multi-media dramatization of 24 episodes from the New Testament, was a smash hit in Paris and in such American cities as Worcester, Mass. It was also a dramatic witness to the Christian faith. At the end of the first show in Worcester, for example, cast members remained praying on their knees for almost half an hour, and an actor asked to be baptized into the Catholic Church.

When the show was booked for Radio City Music Hall in New York City, however, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith complained that it was anti-Semitic. The ADL charged that creator Robert Hossein had dressed temple priests like Darth Vader, and it objected to many passages in the script as well, including the identification of Herod as Tetrarch of Galilee. The opening of "Jesus Was His Name" was delayed for two weeks while the script was rewritten, and each performance was preceded by the reading of an ADL-provided announcement that Jews were not responsible for the death of Jesus.

Monsignor Michael Wrenn of New York, who translated the French script into English, said the effect of the ADL changes was to diminish the historicity of Jesus Christ as a particular man living in a particular nation at a particular time. As to the "Darth Vader" allegation, Wrenn said the costumes were modeled after those worn in the paintings of Rembrandt and Goya, who presumably never saw *Star Wars*.

The temple priests were then dressed to resemble Catholic monks. "It almost seemed that Jesus was handed over by the Christians to Pontius Pilate to be condemned to death," said Wrenn. And unlike the audiences in other cities, New Yorkers gave the new version only a lukewarm response. (Philip F. Lawler, *Catholic World Report*, 8-9/93)

Safe Sin

Left-libertarians have always been fascinated by "virtual reality" gear that allows participants to feel like part of a computer-generated game. Now reporter Karen Swisher has revealed why (*Washington Post*, 7/13/93): virtual reality will allow participants eventually to "experiment with homosexuality, heterosexuality," rape, children, dogs, "Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Kingston Trio, Jesse Helms, whatever your tastes."

Wearing an interactive helmet and gloves, and eventually other equipment, customers will experience the ultimate pornography: the "cyborgasm."

"Perhaps American industry would be too dignified and high-minded to exploit this potential market, however huge and ravenous it might be," says Swisher. "Perhaps fish are pianos."

Beach Blanket Bongo

Last month, several thousand black fraternity students descended on the little coastal town of Half Moon Bay, California, for "Sex on the Beach." Trouble began about 3:00 pm when the celebrants began throwing bottles at passing cars driven by whites and looting white-owned stores. McDonalds and 7-11 were among the places robbed of cash, and other stores such as Safeway saw mass shoplifting. Even gas stations had their pumps emptied by thieves.

The police started to arrest some of the perps, and then decided it would be "more prudent not to arrest anyone," said the sheriff, because "deputies were far outnumbered by beachgoers." The cops would have been beaten and maybe killed, in other words.

Once again, the mob triumphed. And although Half Moon Bay is very near San Francisco,

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the riot went unreported in all area newspapers (except the weekly *Half Moon Bay Review*), and unmentioned on all local television stations.

I Love Walt

Walt Disney, one of the few decent Americans to run ever a major film studio, is being traduced on television and radio by Mark Eliot, author of *Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince*. Disney's crime? He fired some Commie employees, and (maybe) told J. Edgar Hoover about the Bolsheviks in Hollywood.

Bubble, Bubble, Grades and Trouble

If the California school-choice initiative passes, a cabal of witches plans to open a school on taxpayers' money. Debbie Babcock, a priestess in the Oak Haven Coven and an official of the Contra Costa Pagan Association, said her group would open a school with "25 students who would pay their tuition with $2,600 vouchers handed out by the state."

"Basically," she told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "we would run a regular curriculum" and add "witchcraft." Vouchers would enable the school to refute "detrimental things" like "Christian values" and the "Hollywood version of the bad witch." (*Orange County Register*, 7/25/93)

No Party Hats

Peter Eisenman, a New York City architect, has designed a giant, ugly building to be inflicted on Berlin. Based on the Mobius strip, the egalitarian structure "lacks the hierarchy of 'inside' and 'outside,' of private and public," says Eisenman. It can be seen as "bisexual. It blurs the distinction between male and female." and it "challenges the notion of building as phallic symbol, the tall building with the party hat on it." (*Harper's*, 7/93)

The Profit

Under pressure from the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Walt Disney Company has agreed to change two lines in the opening song of its animated movie, "Aladdin." The song "Arabian Nights" included the lyrics: "Where they cut off your ear/If they don't like your face." For the videotape, they will now be: "Where it's flat and immense/And the heat is intense."

"'Aladdin' is not the first Disney film to be altered," notes the *WP* (7/13/93). "In the original version of 'The Three Little Pigs,' the Big Bad Wolf tried to get into the pigs' house by disguising himself as a peddler with a heavy Jewish accent." The scene was changed to have the wolf talking in a falsetto voice.

Skin Color

To assuage his opponents, the commie priest and once-and-future president of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has named Robert Malval as his prime minister. But there is a lot of opposition, notes the *NYT* (8/4/93). According to Aristide supporters, Malval is "too light-skinned."

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